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Letter dated 22 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government and with reference to the item entitled "The situation in East Timor", I have the honour to inform you of the following recent developments regarding Indonesia's efforts undertaken within the framework of ensuring security in East Nusa Tenggara.

In that regard, as part of the ongoing disarmament process, the police authorities in the province, in cooperation with the Udayana Military Command, conducted a confidential and impromptu operation under the code name "Sapu Turangga 2001" on 15 and 16 August 2001. The operation involved the participation of 1,100 police and 1,900 military personnel and its objective was to target individuals suspected of possession of illegal arms throughout the province of East Nusa Tenggara. The entire exercise resulted in the confiscation of hundreds of handmade guns, seven standard weapons, seven explosives, as well as 1,300 rounds of ammunition, which is indicative of the success achieved in the operation.

On the occasion of the closing ceremony of the operation, the Udayana Military Commander, Major-General Willem da Costa, reaffirmed that stern and effective measures would be taken against all those found to be in possession of arms and ammunition, including vigorous prosecution by the relevant authorities. In order to sustain this complex and arduous disarmament process, the authorities have announced that future impromptu operations will continue.

Indonesia remains firmly committed to promoting a calm and stable environment in East Nusa Tenggara and the latter operation, among others, is a demonstration of its seriousness to take resolute action against illegal activities undermining the security of the province. All these endeavours have led to a peaceful situation on the ground. Thus there can be no veracity to statements from certain quarters asserting that the Indonesian authorities have been supporting and harbouring the "militias".

It would be highly appreciated if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Makmur **Widodo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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